

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 00658 SENT SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS
DATED JAN 15.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 00658

STATE AND BRUSSELS PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, PFOR, UK

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SUBJ: CIVAIR - AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: LONDON 0238

1. IN THE WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S HIJACKING OF BRITISH AIRWAYS ONE-ELEVEN AT HEATHROW, MR. PETER SHORE, SECRETARY FOR TRADE MADE A STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON SECURITY AT AIRPORTS. HE SAID THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AT A LARGE NUMBER OF AIRPORTS IN THE UK MAY BE TAKEN OVER BY LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES INSTEAD OF BEING HANDLED BY THE INDIVIDUAL AIRPORT OWNERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE ANTI-HIJACK OPERATION LAST WEEK BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SHOWED THE VALUE OF PUTTING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY INTO THE HANDS OF THAT BODY UNDER THE RECENT POLICING OF AIRPORTS ACT, 1974. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AT GATWICK, STANSTED, GLASGOW EDINBURGH, AND PRESTWICK (OWNED BY THE BRITISH AIRPORTS AUTHORITY) IS IN PROCESS OF BEING PASSED TO THE RELEVANT POLICE AUTHORITIES. MR. SHORE SAID "AND I HAVE NOW CALLED FOR AN EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING FURTHER AIRPORTS".

2. REGARDING A RELATED INCIDENT, THE HIJACKING OF THE VC-10 AT DUBAI IN NOVEMBER 1974, HE SAID THAT WHILE THE FINAL REPORT WAS NOT FINISHED, "WE HAVE ALREADY INITIATED USEFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT PROTECTIVE MEASURES ACCORDED TO AIRCRAFT OF BRITISH AIRLINES ON THE GROUND".

3. COMMENT: THE UKG IS MOVING TOWARDS THE US SYSTEM OF 100 PERCENT SCREENING OF ALL SCHEDULED FLIGHTS, BUT ARE HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL. EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE TO MEET WITH UKG DEPT. OF TRADE SECURITY PERSONNEL TO ELICIT MORE DETAILS ON BOTH THE DUBAI AND HEATHROW INCIDENTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ANY LESSONS LEARNED.

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